

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 23rd, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Campylobacter and (chronic) inflammatory diseases revision-review.doc).

**Title:** Is there an unrecognised role for *Campylobacter* infections in (chronic) inflammatory diseases?

**Author:** Rogier Louwen and John P. Hays

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5443

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers and **Author response** is shown in **RED**.

(1) **Reviewer 1** suggested to reorganize sections so that most important/convincing associations are placed first with less convincing ones later

**Author response:** sections adapted as requested.

(2) **Reviewer 1** asked to have a look at the introduction/abstract and title section, because there was some confusing to dichotomise known NON-GI manifestations from that are more speculative

**Author response:** confusing parts adapted to inflammatory, since this allows coverage of all of the discussed manifestations.

(3) **Reviewer 1** misses a flow of logic to the overall point being made at the end of each section.

**Author response:** we have clarified at the end of each section the overall point in more detail.

(4) **Reviewer 1** asked whether the existing data support a role for campy in celiac disease

**Author response:** this section was added for the sole purpose to trigger colleagues to further investigate this possibility, but indeed, currently only a small amount of literature on this matter is present.

(5) **Reviewer 1** asked to add the section on IBD and IBS after GBS

**Author response:** adapted as requested

Next **reviewer 1** asked some tweaking in the IBD and IBS section.

**Author response:** adapted as requested references of Jess et al gut 2010,60,318 and Riddle et al gut were included in this section.

(6) **Reviewer 1** questioned the discussion on translocation of microorganism and CDT in IBS and IBD (lines 5-7 page 13 and Lines 17-18 page 14, respectively)

**Author response:** a sentence later it is stated that this is only a hypothesis in current literature, some nuance was also presented on CDT. Inflammatory is adapted to Irritable.

(7) **Reviewer 1** stated that for IBD there was a lack of understanding of the conditions, e.g. "most of my patients with Crohn's disease have colonic involvement with cramps and bloody diarrhoea.

**Author response:** Thank you for this clarification. Our understanding is indeed limited on this subject and therefore adapted this part to the observations done in the clinic by reviewer 1.

(8) **Reviewer 1** asked to deepen the intro's of the sections

**Author response:** Have been done where we thought it was appropriate.

(9) **Reviewer 1** thought the section on psoriatic arthritis is too weak to stand alone.

**Author response:** indeed this section is weak, because only a small amount of literature is available on this subject, but we find this section important enough to let it stand alone to add attention to the strong link that is established between *C. fetus* and psoriatic arthritis.

(10) **Reviewer 1** had a remark on the muscle involvement and GBS.

**Author response:** indeed not all the muscles are necessarily involved in GBS, sentence is adapted.

(11) **Reviewer 1** had a remark on adverbs usage

**Author response:** adverb usage is reduced

(12) **Reviewer 1** had a remark on the number of *Campylobacter* species.

**Author response:** adapted to 17.

(13) **Reviewer 1** had a remark concerning misspellings, grammar and syntax issues

**Author response:** adapted where appropriate.

(1) **Reviewer 2** stated that the review was not a systemic reviewer

**Author response:** adapted, systemic has been removed.

(2) **Reviewer 2** suggested to nuance the section on *Campylobacter* and its association with myocarditis that is based on the study of Becker et al.

**Author response:** we agree and have slightly rewritten this section.

(3) **Reviewer 2** also suggested to nuance in the same section the discussion about the association between *Campylobacter*, myocarditis and overrepresentation in man.

**Author response:** we agree and have slightly rewritten this part as well.

(4) **Reviewer 2** suggested to nuance the discussion on the study performed by Gradel et al.

**Author response:** we agree and have slightly rewritten this section.

(5) **Reviewer 2** also suggested to report on the nature and quality of the study performed by Lapadula, which reported a strong link between *Campylobacter* and psoriatic arthritis.

**Author response:** we added to this psoriatic arthritis section that the number of patient groups were small and that further studies are required to confirm or reject the results of Lapadula.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

Sincerely yours,



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